



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 187**

January Session, 2015

House Bill No. 6833

*House of Representatives, March 24, 2015*

The Committee on Commerce reported through REP. PERONE of the 137th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MILITARY AFFAIRS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 32-58b of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2015*):

4 (b) The Governor, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
5 Economic and Community Development, shall appoint an executive  
6 director to manage the daily activities and duties of the Office of  
7 Military Affairs. The executive director shall have the necessary  
8 qualifications to perform the duties of said office, including, but not  
9 limited to, having prior military experience, and having attained the  
10 rank of [an] a field grade or senior officer within a branch of the armed  
11 forces. The Governor shall give preference to any person with the  
12 necessary training and experience who has served in the Navy or who  
13 has knowledge or prior experience with the federal Base Realignment  
14 and Closure or "BRAC" process. Within available appropriations, the

15 executive director shall: (1) Appoint, employ and remove such  
16 assistants, employees and personnel as deemed necessary for the  
17 efficient and effective administration of the activities of the office; (2)  
18 coordinate state and local efforts to prevent the closure or downsizing  
19 of Connecticut military facilities, particularly United States Naval  
20 Submarine Base-New London, located in Groton; (3) maximize the  
21 state's input into the federal Base Realignment and Closure or "BRAC"  
22 process, including, but not limited to, (A) acting as liaison to the state's  
23 congressional delegation on defense, military and BRAC issues, and  
24 (B) [acting as liaison to consultant lobbyists] coordinating the activities  
25 of consultants hired by the state to assist in monitoring activities  
26 related to BRAC; (4) encourage the relocation of military missions to  
27 the state; (5) coordinate state and local efforts to enhance the quality of  
28 life of all branches of military personnel stationed in or deploying from  
29 Connecticut and their families living or working in Connecticut; (6)  
30 review and make recommendations for state policies that affect  
31 Connecticut's military facilities and defense and homeland security  
32 industries; (7) coordinate state, regional and local efforts to encourage  
33 the growth of Connecticut's defense and homeland security industry;  
34 (8) [support the development of a Defense and Homeland Security  
35 Industry Cluster] serve as an advocate for service members and their  
36 families to other state agencies; (9) [establish and coordinate a  
37 Connecticut Military and Defense Advisory Council to provide  
38 technical advice and assistance] initiate and sustain collaborative  
39 partnerships with local military commanders; (10) [oversee the  
40 implementation of recommendations of the Governor's Commission  
41 for the Economic Diversification of Southeastern Connecticut] consult  
42 with the Department of Economic and Community Development on  
43 proposed financial assistance agreements with defense and homeland  
44 security firms; and (11) prepare and submit a report of activities,  
45 findings and recommendations annually to the Governor and the joint  
46 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
47 matters relating to commerce and public safety, in accordance with the  
48 provisions of section 11-4a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	32-58b(b)
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**CE**      *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill has no fiscal impact by (1) increasing the military rank of the executive director of the Office of Military Affairs (OMA) and (2) modifying the duties of the executive director. The bill reflects the current practice of the OMA and the current executive director meets the criteria as outlined.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 6833*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MILITARY AFFAIRS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill (1) increases the military rank needed to be the Office of Military Affairs executive director (ED) from officer to field grade or senior officer, and (2) modifies the ED's duties to remove obsolete functions, reflect current agency practice, and make other minor changes.

The bill eliminates three obsolete ED duties:

1. supporting and developing a Defense and Homeland Security Industry Cluster,
2. establishing and coordinating a Connecticut Military and Defense Advisory Council, and
3. overseeing implementation of the recommendations of the Governor's Commission for the Economic Diversification of Southeastern Connecticut.

The bill also explicitly directs the ED to do the following, conforming to current agency practice:

1. advocate for service members and their families to other state agencies,
2. initiate and sustain collaborative partnerships with local military commanders, and
3. consult with the Department of Economic and Community

Development (DECD) on proposed financial assistance agreements with defense and homeland security firms.

The bill also makes two minor changes to the ED's duties. Current law requires the ED to act as a "liaison to consultant lobbyists" hired by the state to monitor federal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activities. The bill instead requires the ED to coordinate the activities of consultants hired by the state during BRAC. The bill also clarifies that the ED's duty to enhance military personnel's quality of life pertains to those stationed in or deploying from Connecticut.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Office of Military Affairs***

Contained administratively within DECD, the Office of Military Affairs works to enhance the life of all branches of military personnel and their families in Connecticut and expand the military and homeland security presence in the state.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 2 (03/10/2015)